

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ROME 19850 061807Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 MCT-01 /059 W

----- 016338

R 061646Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1620

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 19850

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IT

SUBJECT: LEVEL OF POLITICALLY-RELATED VIOLENCE RISES

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO FIGURES COLLECTED INFORMALLY BY THE EMBASSY FROM JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, THE FREQUENCY OF POLITICALLY-RELATED VIOLENT ACTS HAS BEEN ACCELERATING SHARPLY SINCE OCTOBER 1. INCREASINGLY, VIOLENCE HAS BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST ITALY'S INSTITUTIONS AND NOT AGAINST EXTREMIST GROUPS. NOT PRESENTLY PERCEIVED BY THE PUBLIC AS A PROBLEM, POLITICAL VIOLENCE COULD GROW FURTHER AND PROVIDE ANOTHER HURDLE FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF THE LEVEL OF POLITICALLY RELATED VIOLENCE IN ITALY IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. MANY OF THE BREAK-INS, ROBBERIES AND BOMBINGS WHICH APPEAR TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND ARE REPORTED AS SUCH MAY INSTEAD BE THE WORK OF COMMON CRIMINALS. THERE IS ALSO NO ASSURANCE THAT THE EXTREMIST GROUPS, SUCH AS THE "ARMED PROLETARIAN NUCLEI" OF "ARMED COMMUNIST UNITS" WHICH OFTEN CLAIM "CREDIT" FOR VIOLENT ACTS ACTUALLY COMMIT THE CRIMES. NEVERTHELESS, DAILY NEWSPAPERS DO CREATE AN ONGOING RECORD OF THE CONTINUAL VIOLENCE, AND AN OBSERVER IS ABLE TO FORM A SUBJECTIVE IMPRESSION OF THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ROME 19850 061807Z

TREND.

3. FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS, WE HAVE BEEN SCANNING A SELECTION OF THE DAILY PRESS FOR NEWS OF NIOLENCE WHICH APPEARS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. THE TREND IS UNMISTAKEABLY UP, AS THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS.

VIOLENT ACTS REPORTED AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

OCTOBER 1-15	-	4
OCTOBER 16-31	-	13
NOVEMBER 1-15	-	23
NOVEMBER 16-30	-	42
DECEMBER 1 AND 2	-	9
TOTAL		91

4. BECAUSE OUR PRESS SOURCES INCLUDE ONLY THE MAJOR NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND A COUPLE OF ROMAN SOURCES, THE ABOVE FIGURES SHOULD BY NO MEANS BE TAKEN AS VALID COUNTRY-WIDE TOTALS. IN OUR OPINION, THE APPARENT TREND HAS NOT BEEN PRODUCED BY INCREASED JOURNALISTIC ATTENTION TO REPORTING VIOLENCE. NEITHER HAS THE INCREASE IN VIOLENCE BEEN PERCEIVED AS SUCH BY THE PUBLIC.

5. IT IS INTERESTING TO ANALYZE THE PATTERN OF VIOLENCE IN TERMS OF THE TARGETS CHOSEN. THE FOLLOWING TABLE BREAKS DOWN THE OBJECTS OF THE 91 VIOLENT ACTS INTO CATEGORIES.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	19
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NOT INCLUDING COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE)	18
COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE (ORGANIZATION RELATED TO THE DC)	7
ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT (MSI)	15
GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT-RELATED INSTITUTIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  LIMITED OFFICIAL USE	11
PAGE 03 ROME 19850 061807Z	
ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY	6
COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA	5
EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES	4
THE CHURCH	2

EXTREME LEFT

2

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1

LABOR

1

6. WHAT OBSERVATIONS MAY BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE FIGURES ABOVE?

A. ALL OF THE VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST BUSINESS, MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL, OCCURRED AFTER NOVEMBER 1. THIS PERIOD WAS ALSO MARKED BY INCREASED STRIKE ACTIVITY AND BY NATIONWIDE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY PROPOSALS AND ON LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISCUSSIONS OF THE WAGE INDEXATION SCALE.

B. MORE VIOLENT ACTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE DC AND THE RELATED COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE (CL) ORGANIZATION THAN AGAINST ALL OF THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES COMBINED. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS A NEW TREND, AND IS PERHAPS A REACTION TO THE MILITANT EFFECTIVENESS OF CL AND OF DC SPOESMEN SUCH AS MASSIMO DE CAROLIS. THERE IS A TENDENCY TO USE AGAINST THE DC THE EPITHETS FORMERLY RESERVED FOR THE MSI.

C. THE MSI REMAINS A FAVORITE TARGET OF THE EXTREME LEFT, WHEREAS THE NUMBER OF VIOLENT ACTS POSSIBLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE EXTREME RIGHT IS QUITE SMALL.

D. FOR ALL OF THE LEFT-WING RHETORIC, THE PCI WAS THE OBJECT OF A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE VIOLENCE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ROME 19850 061807Z

E. NONE OF THE 91 VIOLENT ACTS RESULTED IN DEATH, AND ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WERE INJURED. MOST OF THE INCIDENTS WERE BOMBINGS, EITHER WITH "MOLOTOV COCKTAILS" OR CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVES.

7. CONCLUSION. OUR FIGURES, AS INEXACT AS THEY MAY BE, SHOW THAT THE CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ITALY'S INSTITUTIONS (BUSINESS, GOVERNING PARTY AND GOVERNMENT) HAS PICKED UP TEMPO AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED ON ITS ECONOMIC AUSTERITY MEASURES. SO FAR, PUBLIC ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON THE BASIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND NOT ON THE VIOLENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ACCELERATION OF THE VIOLENCE, ESPECIALLY AS THE NEW AUSTERITY MEASURES BEGIN

TO BE FELT BY THE PUBLIC. THAT, IF IT HAPPENS, WILL  
BE ANOTHER HARSH TEST FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. BEAUDRY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ROME19850  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760450-0935  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761269/aaaachus.tel  
**Line Count:** 171  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** vogelfj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEVEL OF POLITICALLY-RELATED VIOLENCE RISES  
**TAGS:** PINS, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006